

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the *21st of January 1935.*
8th of Makarom 1110.

The House met at 11-30 A. M., in the Town Hall, Ernakulam, with C. G. Herbert Esq., I. C. S., the Diwan President in the Chair. Messrs. C. Barton Wright, K. G. Nayar, A. I. Mani and C. A. Ouseph were absent.

Opening Statement by the President.

President—Hon'ble Members of the Legislative Council, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this meeting of the Council. We have before us no legislative questions of outstanding importance. First there are several resolutions covering a wide area of public interest to be discussed. This meeting will also be remarkable for two very pleasant incidents. The first is a motion which will shortly be moved to congratulate His Highness the Maharajah on the Knight Grand Commandership of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire which has recently been conferred upon His Highness by His Majesty the King Emperor. The second relates to a portrait of His Highness the late Sir Sri Rama Varmah, G. C. S. I., G. C. I. E., which Mrs. I. N. Menon has been good enough to present to this Council for being hung in the Council Hall and which I shall have the honour to unveil to-morrow.

In conclusion, I appeal to all Hon'ble Members of the House to extend their support in the discharge of the duties of the Chair.

We will now pass on to questions and answers.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Protective works against sea-erosion in Ochanthuruthu.

166. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—With reference to question No. 173, dated 17th December 1931, regarding remedies against sea-erosion in Cranganur, will the Government be pleased to explain the comparative urgency for their recent protective works against sea-erosion in Ochanthuruthu and to say what benefit Cranganur got by her having voiced her grievances on the subject so early as 17th December 1931?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon:—The coast line in Ochanthuruthu is being eroded to a large extent and this necessitated urgent protective works. The case of Cranganur is different in that the erosion there in recent years has not been appreciable.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—May I know whether the erosion in Ochanthuruthu is more than that in Cranganur?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon:—Yes.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—What figures have you got regarding the erosions in both these places?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon:—In certain places of Ochanthuruthu the erosion if unprotected is about 100 to 150 feet per year while in Cranganur for the last two years the erosion was not very appreciable.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Is it less than 150 in Cranganur?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon:—Yes.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Has the Hon'ble Member for Engineering got any definite figures regarding the erosion in Cranganur?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon:—The figures have been collected. But I want notice.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—At least can the Hon'ble Member give the total worth of property eroded in Cranganur?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon:—I want notice.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Did not, Sir, on 17th December 1931, in answer to a question from the non-official side, the Hon'ble Member for Engineering submit to this House that there are single land holdings the ruin of each of which by sea erosion has amounted to more than a lakh of rupees in Cranganur? Do you remember to have made such a statement?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon:—If it is printed in the Proceedings I must have said that. What I just now said was that in recent years there has been no appreciable erosion.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Am I to take it that the Hon'ble Member for Engineering is sure to assert that the erosion in Ochanthuruthu during recent years has been more than what has been taking place in Cranganur for the last two years?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon:—As the Hon'ble Member knows Ochanthuruthu is a much more deep place on the coast line than Cranganur. Ochanthuruthu is only about 2 or 3 furlongs wide. We must protect that side much more urgently than any other part of Cochin.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Am I not to take that this is another instance of the habit of the Government deliberately defeating the non-official demands?

President—I don't think that, that arises out of this question.

Failure of Justice in the matter of complaints of the poorer classes against the rich.

167. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Referring to the complaints of Messrs. Vilukutty, Kochu Chakkan, Kunjandi, Raman, Kammad, Pulli, Kurumban, Karichil and Krishnan, etc., etc., will the Government kindly say—

(1) whether they have not already admitted in open Council on previous occasions that complaints of the poor against the rich tend generally to be compounded on account of the advantageous position and greater resources of the latter; and

(2) what they have been doing and intend to do to prevent failure of Justice through the Mal-distribution of Wealth?

Mr. P. Nilakanata Menon:—(1) *What Government have stated is that in most of the cases of assault on the depressed classes, the parties compromise and thus nullify the effects of Police interference.

(2) No answer is required in view of the answer to sub-division (1).

** Since this answer was not ready for the Vrischigam meeting of the Legislative Council, this could not be answered along with the other questions relating to the complaints of Messrs. Valukutty, Kochu Chakkan, etc.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—By answer (2) does the Hon'ble Member for Police admit that there is a failure of justice through the mal-distribution of wealth?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon:—It is a matter of opinion.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—I ask whether the Hon'ble Member for Police admits by the answer "No answer is required in view of the answer to sub-division (1)" that there is such a practice.

President:—The Hon'ble Member for Police said that it is a matter of opinion. Some might say 'yes' and some might say 'no'.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—May I know Sir, the most common cause for such compromising?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon:—I suppose it is the desire of the parties to compromise.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—What is this that actuates these poor people to compromise? There must be some reason for that.